

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of executing a diagnosis program including multiple procedures wherein the diagnosis program does not specify an order in which the procedures are executed, the method comprising:

receiving priority information specifying an order in which a plurality of automated diagnostic procedures is to be performed in a computer system;

performing the plurality of automated diagnostic procedures in the specified order, wherein each of the plurality of automated diagnostic procedures passes or fails depending on at least one condition in the computer system; and

updating the priority information if more than one of the plurality of automated diagnostic procedures fail.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the priority information comprises a matrix with dependency values for the plurality of automated diagnostic procedures.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein one of the dependency values indicates a correlation probability between two of the automated diagnostic procedures, and wherein the method further comprises deciding a relative order of the two automated diagnostic procedures based on the correlation probability if the correlation probability is at least a threshold value.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein at least one of the automated diagnostic procedures fails, and wherein the method further comprises performing an automated remedy procedure that is associated with the failing automated diagnostic procedures.

5. The method of claim 4, further comprising updating the priority information also if the automated remedy procedure causes any other of the plurality of automated diagnostic procedures to fail.

6. The method of claim 4, further comprising updating the priority information also if the automated remedy procedure resolves a problem that causes any other of the plurality of automated diagnostic procedures to fail.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein a first update of the priority information made upon more than one of the plurality of automated diagnostic procedures failing is less significant than a second update made upon the automated remedy procedure resolving the problem that causes any of the plurality of automated diagnostic procedures to fail.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein a failure of at least one of the automated diagnostic procedures comprises one selected from the group consisting of: an informational message, an advisory, a warning, a fatal error notification, and combinations thereof.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein a user enters the priority information in the computer system.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein the user specifies that a relationship between at least two of the plurality of automated diagnostic procedures is not to be changed in any updates.

11. The method of claim 1, wherein the priority information is received from a publisher according to a subscription.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein the priority information is updated, further comprising publishing the updated priority information.

13. The method of claim 1, further comprising generating the priority information using a dependency model for the automated diagnostic procedures.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein the dependency model associates at least one problem with observed data.

15. The method of claim 14, wherein the dependency model associates at least two problems with the observed data and wherein the plurality of automated diagnostic procedures includes two automated diagnostic procedures designed to identify the two problems, and wherein the method further comprises deciding a relative order of the two automated diagnostic procedures using the dependency model.

16. The method of claim 1, wherein the plurality of automated diagnostic procedures includes a first user-developed automated diagnostic procedure and a plurality of preconfigured automated diagnostic procedures, the preconfigured automated diagnostic procedures being part of a program that is configured to accept user-developed automated diagnostic procedures.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein the user-developed automated diagnostic procedure is a Business Add-In component.

18. The method of claim 1, further comprising receiving user input modifying the priority information.

19. The method of claim 18, wherein the input does at least one selected from the group consisting of: specifies a correlation probability between

two of the automated diagnostic procedures, selects a correlation probability between two of the automated diagnostic procedures not to be updated, modifies the specified order, and combinations thereof.

20. A computer program product tangibly embodied in an information carrier, the computer program product including instructions that, when executed, cause a processor to perform operations comprising:

receive priority information specifying an order in which a plurality of automated diagnostic procedures is to be performed in a computer system;

perform the plurality of automated diagnostic procedures in the specified order, wherein each of the plurality of automated diagnostic procedures passes or fails depending on at least one condition in the computer system; and

update the priority information if more than one of the plurality of automated diagnostic procedures fail.

21. The computer program product of claim 20, wherein at least one of the automated diagnostic procedures fails, and wherein the operations further comprise:

perform an automated remedy procedure that is associated with the failing automated diagnostic procedure.

22. The computer program product of claim 21, wherein the operations further comprise:

update the priority information also if the automated remedy procedure causes any other of the plurality of automated diagnostic procedures to fail.

23. The computer program product of claim 21, wherein the operations further comprise:

update the priority information also if the automated remedy procedure resolves a problem that causes any other of the plurality of automated diagnostic procedures to fail.

24. The computer program product of claim 20, wherein the plurality of automated diagnostic procedures includes a first user-developed automated diagnostic procedure and a plurality of preconfigured automated diagnostic procedures, the preconfigured automated diagnostic procedures being part of a program that is configured to accept user-developed automated diagnostic procedures.

25. The computer program product of claim 24, wherein the user-developed automated diagnostic procedure is a Business Add-In component.

26. The computer program product of claim 20, wherein the priority information comprises a matrix with dependency values for the plurality of automated diagnostic procedures.

27. The computer program product of claim 26, wherein one of the dependency values indicates a correlation probability between two of the automated diagnostic procedures, and wherein the operations further comprise:

decide a relative order of the two automated diagnostic procedures based on the correlation probability if the correlation probability is at least a threshold value.